

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently Amended) An electronic manual search system ~~including~~ an
2 electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the system
3 comprising:

4 an electronic manual composed of a plurality of topics;
5 a reference number table which stores, for each ~~part topic of the electronic~~
6 manual, a reference number expressing how many times the ~~part is topic has been~~
7 referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is automatically generated by
8 automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the
9 past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic has
10 been in the past was referred to as a search result;

11 a search process unit which ~~searches contents of the parts based on a~~
12 search condition, wherein the search process unit searches contents of each part in
13 order based on the reference number; and

14 a search result display unit which displays ~~parts topics~~ which resulted from
15 the search process unit, in order based on the reference number;
16 wherein the electronic manual consists of:

17 —— (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an
18 application program; or
19 —— (2) searching of an electronic dictionary.

2. (Previously Canceled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) The electronic manual search system of claim 1
2 further comprising a reference number update unit which increments by one the
3 reference number of a ~~part topic~~ when the user selects and/or refers to the ~~part~~
4 topic among ~~parts topics~~ which are displayed by the search result display unit.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The electronic manual search system of claim 1
2 further comprising a reference number update unit which increments by one the
3 reference number of a ~~part topic~~ displayed immediately before the user stops
4 displaying of the search results.

1 *(1)* 5. (Currently Amended) The electronic manual search system of claim 1,
2 wherein the order of displaying the searched parts is a descending order of the
3 reference number of the parts topics.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The electronic manual search system of claim 1,
2 wherein the order of searching ~~the parts~~ is a descending order of the reference
3 number of the ~~parts~~ topics.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the
2 reference number table stores the reference number for each ~~attribute of the~~ user class.

10 a search process unit which searches contents of the parts for topics satisfying a
11 search condition in order based on the reference number wherein the electronic manual
12 consists of: (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an application
13 program; or (2) searching of an electronic dictionary.

1 10. (Currently Amended) A method of searching an electronic manual
2 which is composed of a plurality of parts topics, wherein the electronic manual
3 consists of (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an
4 application program or (2) searching of an electronic dictionary, the method
5 comprising the steps of:

6 storing, for each part topic, a reference number expressing the number of
7 times the part is topic was referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is
8 automatically generated by automatically counting a topic which has been referred
9 to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of
10 times the respective topic in the past has been referred to;

11 searching contents of the parts topics based on a search condition; wherein
12 the searching step searches contents of each part in order based on the reference
13 number; and

14 displaying parts topics which result from the searching step, in order based
15 on the reference number.

11. (Previously Canceled)

1 12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the order of
2 displaying the searched parts topics is a descending order of the reference number of
3 the parts topics.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the order of
2 searching the parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts
3 topics.

1 *CX*
2 *DL*
3
4 14. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly
embodying an electronic manual wherein the electronic manual consists of
information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program or
is searching of an electronic dictionary, comprising:

5 a plurality of parts topics; and

6 a reference number of each part topic, the reference number representing the
7 number of times the corresponding topic is was referred to as searched results,
8 wherein the reference number is automatically generated by automatically counting
9 a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference
10 number records the number of times the respective topic has been referred to;
11 wherein contents of each part topic are searchable in order based on the reference
12 number.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 14, wherein the
2 reference number is stored for each attribute class of a user who refers to the part
3 topic as searched results

1 16. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 17, further
2 comprising: displaying parts topics which are obtained by the searching step as
3 search results, in order based on the reference number.

17. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method of searching an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts topics, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, for each part, a reference number expressing how many times the part is topic has been referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is automatically generated by ~~automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic in the past has been referred to; and~~

searching contents of the parts for topics for satisfying a search condition in order based on the reference number
wherein the electronic manual consists of: (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program; or (2) searching of an electronic dictionary.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a sequence of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the actions of:

storing, for each part topic of an electronic manual, a reference number expressing how many times the part topic is referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is automatically generated by automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic in the past has been referred to; wherein the electronic manual consists of: (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program; or (2) searching of an electronic dictionary;

searching contents of the parts topics based on a search condition; wherein contents of each part topic are searched in order based on the reference number; and

displaying **parts** topics which are obtained by the searching step as search results in order based on the reference number.

19. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising, computer readable instructions and a recording medium bearing the computer readable instructions; the instructions being adaptable to enable a computer to operate

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according to the steps of:

5 

6 storing, for each part topic of an electronic manual, a reference number
7 expressing the number of times the part topic is referred to by a user, wherein the
8 reference number is automatically generated by automatically counting a topic
9 which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number
10 records the number of times the respective topic in the past has been referred to;
11 wherein the electronic manual consists of (1) information which is to be searched
12 by a help function of an application program; or (2) searching of an electronic
13 dictionary;

14 

15 searching contents of the parts topics based on a search condition; wherein
16 the searching is searches contents of each part in order based on the reference
17 number; and

18 

19 displaying parts which result from the searching step, in order based on the
20 reference number.
